



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

*Auxiliary Communique - Winter 2014 - 2015*

Page 7

## American Legion of Iowa Auxiliary President



Diana Shadduck  
2014 - 2015

I am honored to be representing each of you this year in the spirit of *Service Not Self For Our Veterans*. While travelling throughout Iowa, I have been given the opportunity to listen to stories, share experiences, shake hands and give hugs. First, I would like to sincerely thank my traveling companions: Mary Littrell, Tammy Richardson, Marge Black, Sharon Anderson, Karen Strovers, Kathy Harding and Phyllis VanderLinden. Starting my activities in July, my husband, two grandsons and I attended the 7<sup>th</sup> District Sidney Iowa Championship Rodeo with Past Department President Rosie Hall and received a great tour of the new museum along with Commander Struble.

August Department Leadership Workshop and presentations were creative and informative with information distributed to each District President and Unit.

The ALA was represented in the State Fair Parade in August honoring Veterans where I visited with two Pearl Harbor survivors



(see pictured above), Chief Boatswain Mate Clarence Pfundheller of Audubon and Aviation Ordnance First Class Leland Lester of Newton. I also visited with Carlos Torres, a young Marine who survived an IED but lost his legs, but not his spirit.

The Department van packed and GPS recalculating, we headed south

to the National ALA Convention held in Charlotte, NC with my husband, Leroy, and Past Department President Mary Littrell. Iowa proudly received many awards for our Unit's endeavors and I was installed at the National level.

September brought 40 Auxiliary, Legion and SAL family members together for 3 days, who volunteered over 288 hours to the Des Moines Homeless Veterans Stand Down, where 1,089 Veterans, 65 children and 920 non-veterans were served. I have attended two quilt presentations to WWII Veterans.

Warm September breezes carried me to the Story County meeting with President Mary Jo McLaughlin presiding and 9<sup>th</sup> District Conference in Onawa with President Leanna Tift presiding where I enjoyed visiting with Junior Department President Paige Cople. I attended the 7<sup>th</sup> District Conference in Council Bluffs with President JoAnn Kenkel presiding. I also joined Commander Struble on The American Legion tours of VA facilities in Des Moines, Sioux Falls SD, Omaha, NE and Iowa City as well as attending the VAVS meetings at each facility with our VA & R Coordinator, Mary Littrell. I especially enjoyed the tour of our Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown and dancing with Veterans at the Halloween Dance. I look forward to the December Gift Shop. Mrs. Claus may appear. I attended the Mahaska County meeting in Barnes City, where I enjoyed down-home hospitality.

September also brought an



invitation for the ALA to present an informational/organizational meeting to a group of ladies at the Van Meter post. Attending with me were Doris Jackson and Mary Sebben with the result being an application for a new charter and 52 anxious new members. The support of the Post for this new Unit is exciting. I attended a reception at the Iowa Veterans Home with the VA & R Coordinator and IVH hospital representative Stacy Bane, to recognize volunteers receiving the Presidential Volunteer Service Awards. Two Past Department Presidents were awarded a bronze award: Lillian McGivern and Fran Kirk.

I attended the 4<sup>th</sup> District Conference at St. Ansgar with President Barbara Voshell presiding with creative decorations, especially the Membership Committee's heart and hand cookies. I was also honored to attend the celebration of Lake Mills' 90 year continuous member, Ruth Knudtson (See pictured). The



## "Reason for the Mission"

ALA was only 5 years young when her mother signed her up to be a member. I also attended the SAL Detachment Fall Meeting in Washington, IA with SAL Commander Michael Sypherd presiding.

I attended 1<sup>st</sup> District Conference at Mt. Pleasant with President Mary Sypherd presenting a special youth award to Jasmine Craft, who saved a young life by using CPR. I addressed members of The American Legion Post 34, Oskaloosa, and attended a membership dinner at Waverly, where three special female Veterans were recognized.

I accepted an invitation to visit the Shenandoah CBOC (Community Based Outpatient Clinic associated with the Omaha VA) from hostess Mary Jo Tillman and Unit President Patti Rolf. I was also humbled to be a guest and speak at Breakfast Buffet honoring a beautiful group of members who have had continuous membership for 25 years to 68 years.

In November, I invited the VA & R Committee members (Mary Littrell, Mary Sebben and Cindy Meyer) to attend the week-end National Creative Arts Festival Program in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We were honored in October to present a gas card on behalf of Iowa City ALA representative, Mary Littrell to Veteran Lionel Marcoux, who participated in the vocal competition. We were proud to cheer him on, see his choral

performance and congratulate him on his awards.

Late November winter winds took my husband and me to an annual Appreciation Supper where humor prevails, an ALA Birthday Party at Nevada and to the Boone Unit Fall Banquet. On Veterans Day, I participated in KIOA's radiothon "Vets of Valor Day" with The American Legion to help raise funds for TAL (temporary financial assistance program for Veterans).

Throughout the fall, I have attended many Department committee/board meetings as well continuing to volunteer at the Ottumwa CBOC twice a month greeting Veterans with cookies and answering phone calls. November 22<sup>nd</sup> brings us to the Past District Commander's Membership Rally at Van Meter. We are at a pivotal time in membership... **NOW!** Now is the time to motivate, recharge and turn our membership into positive numbers. Please extend your heart and hands **NOW** to renew, rejoin, and recruit members so that "**now**" the ALA will have a future tomorrow for our Veterans.

The Holidays area approaching – a happy time of year, yet sad for those Veterans without a family or friends, the homeless. Contact your area VA Center to donate items for those Veterans with a family facing a financial hardship during the cold months to come. Adopt a Veteran... share a meal... share a warm coat... share your heart.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
GOD BLESS AMERICA**

## UNIT OBLIGATIONS

**All Units, Counties, and Districts sending in monies for donations, memorials, etc. please note on the check the Unit number or corresponding County or District. Believe it or not there are checks coming in that it is not apparent on the check. To get credit for your Unit/County/District we need to know this information! On checks and forms that you send into the office please paper clip DO NOT staple/tape checks to any form. Thank you.**

**Units cannot be a viable Unit if Obligations are not paid and membership not sent in. These obligations were due October 20. Unit amounts vary. Questions – call Traci at the Department Office – 515-282-7987 (Monday or Tuesday). Thank you.**

## Past District President's Luncheon

Linda Sue Mullen, President

**To:** All current District Presidents & Past District Presidents

**What:** Saturday, February 14, 2015

**Where:** Mid-Winter Luncheon at 11:45 AM

**Why:** Food, fellowship & a business meeting to elect officers and a Memorial Service

**Guests:** Iowa President Diana Shadduck and National President Janet Jefford

**Menu:** Turkey, stuffing, glazed carrots, salad, dessert, roll and beverage

**Cost:** \$25.00 to Joyce Elliott, Treasurer, 580 19th Street, Nevada, IA, 50201

**Deadline:** February 7, 2015 – No exceptions

Looking forward to seeing each and every current and Past Presidents!





# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

*Auxiliary Communique - Fall 2014 - 2015*

Page 8

### 2014-2015 DEADLINE CHECK LIST FOR UNITS

#### DECEMBER

**December 1** – Girls State Registration Forms & Check (\$400.00) from Units due to Department Office  
**December 24-25-26** – Christmas – Dept HQs Closed

#### JANUARY

**January 1** – New Years Day – Dept HQs Office Closed  
**January 19** – Martin Luther King Day–Dept HQs Closed  
**January 31** – Membership is delinquent  
*Loss of continuous years if turned in after this date to Nat'l Office*

#### FEBRUARY

**February 13-15** – Mid-Winter Conference, Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines  
**February 16** – Presidents' Day – Dept HQs Closed

#### MARCH

**March 15** – National Scholarship Applications due

#### APRIL

**April 1**– Junior Camp fee and application (\$125.00) due  
**April 30** – 2015-2016 District, County, and Jr Officers forms due  
**April 30** – Impact Reports due to County Presidents

*NOTE: All Unit Narrative Reports are to be sent to the appropriate Department Chairman for their reports and awards. These reports must be sent in to the appropriate Chairman by the deadline or they WILL NOT be considered for judging. DO NOT send narratives to the Department Office.*

#### MAY

**May 20** – Department Convention Delegates/Alternates Form, Unit Officer Form, and other material needed to begin the new administrative year mailed to Unit Presidents from the Department Office  
**May 25** – Memorial Day, Dept HQs Closed  
**May 31-June 5** – Junior Camp, Christian Conf. Ctr, Newton

#### JUNE

**June 1** – Iowa Merit Award applications due to Dept Education Chairman  
**June 5** – Dept Jr Convention, Christian Conf. Center, Newton  
**June 15** – Poppy Proceeds check and report due Department  
**June 15**– National Convention  
*Delegates/Alternates/Guests/Hotel forms due to Dept Office*  
**June 15** – Top Narratives chosen by Department Chairmen  
*Due to Department President*  
**June 15** – Suggested Governing Document changes due  
*Department Office, Attn: Marlene Valentine*  
**June 14-19** – Iowa Girls State, ISU, Ames  
**June 19** – Girls State Inauguration, Ames

#### JULY

**July 1** – Department Convention Delegates/Alt forms due  
**July 1** – 2015-2016 Unit Officers form due  
**July 17-19** – Department Convention, Cedar Rapids  
*Installation of new officers*

Please note: Many forms were in the Unit/County/District Packets distributed at Department/District/County Leadership Workshops held in August 2014. Do not call the office if you don't have the proper forms as they were in the packets you should have picked up when attending the appropriate Leadership Workshop. Check out the *ALA Communique* in the center of your Iowa Legionnaire for more valuable Auxiliary information. *The Iowa Legionnaire* and the *ALA Communique* will cover three months. Also check out our website: Programs and form information will be found on the website. All deadlines are firm!  
[www.ialegion.org/ala](http://www.ialegion.org/ala).

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE SERVICING ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL FOR THE 2014-2015 ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR

**Education Vice Chairman** – Ann Rehbein, Ames  
**Finance Chairman** – Nicole Clapp, Gladbrook  
**Human Resources Committee Mbr** – Nicole Clapp, Gladbrook  
**Jrs. Central Division Chairman** – Tammy Richardson, Swisher  
**National Executive Committee Woman** – Ann Crawford – Onawa

### CONGRATULATIONS TO 2014 NATIONAL AWARD WINNERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

Americanism Plaque – 2013-2014 Best Overall Americanism Program – Vicki Klinkhammer – Department of Iowa – Best Overall Americanism Program by a Department Chairman in the Central Division (from 2nd District)

Americanism Plaque – 2013-2014 Most Outstanding Junior Americanism Program – Gladbrook Junior Auxiliary Unit #127 – 3rd District

Auxiliary Emergency Fund – 2013-2014 Department of Iowa for contributing the largest amount per capita in the Central Division to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Children and Youth Plaque – 2013-2014 Supporting Military Children – Jeanne Paustian, Gladbrook Unit #1271 – For conducting the most innovative program supporting Military Children – 3rd District

Community Service Certificate – 2013-2014 Community Service Senior Volunteer of the Year – Linda Zahnley Correctionville, Unit #79 – for outstanding Volunteer Service in the Central Division – 9th District

National Security Certificate – 2013-2014 National Security Military Support Award – Gladbrook Unit #127 – For the most outstanding program serving and supporting Military Families by a Unit in the Central Division – 3rd District

Membership Certificate – 2013-2014 “Pass It On” Membership Mission Award – Correctionville Unit #79 – For best demonstration of how working the mission of the Children and Youth Committee engaged, retained and attracted members to grow membership in the Central Division – 9th District

National Security Certificate – 2013-2014 National Security “Pass It On” Membership Mission Award – Correctionville Unit #79 – For demonstrating of How Working the National Security Program Engaged, Retained and Attracted Members to Grow Membership by a Unit in the Central Division – 9th District

Poppy Certificate – 2013-2014 National Poppy Poster Contest – Sydney Livermore, LeMars Unit #241 – for the Best Poppy Poster in

Class III in the Central Division – 9th District

Poppy Certificate – 2013-2014 National Poppy Poster Contest – Bailey Taylor, Hinton Unit #477 – for the Best Poppy Poster in Class V in the Central Division – 9th District

Poppy Certificate – 2013-2014 National Poppy Poster Contest – Brooke Gruhn, Manning Unit #22 – for the Best Poppy Poster in Class VI in the Central Division – 8th District

Poppy Certificate – 2013-2014 National Poppy Poster Contest – Sydney Livermore, LeMars Unit #241 – the Best Overall Poppy Poster in the Central Division – 9th District

Public Relations Plaque – 2013-2014 Junior Public Relations Award – For Best published press or media coverage for a Junior activity – Jolene Denbow – Unit #127 – 3rd District

Unit Website Certificate Award – 2013-2014 – for launching a new Unit website – Jackie Westover, Webmaster – Correctionville #79 – 9th District

**POPPIES: PLEASE NOTE** - The article in a recent National News indicated that poppies could now be made by others. However the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Iowa will continue for the foreseeable future having our poppies made by the veterans at the *Iowa Veterans Home* in Marshalltown, Iowa. Questions, call the Department Office at 515-282-7987.

### Cancellation of Unit Charter

Many questions have been asked on how to cancel a Unit Charter. In other words Disband a Unit.

1. **NO** Charter should be considered for cancellation or disbanding without the Unit first involving and working with the County/District/Department Membership Team. The Post should also be notified.

2. If the Unit cannot be saved, encourage members to transfer to another Unit before the Unit cancels the Charter.

3. After all means to save the Unit has been exhausted the following procedures **MUST** be followed: A) A Unit wanting to relinquish their Charter for cancellation **MUST** send an advance written notice to their entire membership and shall indicate a vote will be taken at a regular meeting of the Unit as to whether or not to cancel the Charter (disband). Only those members in attendance may vote. Absentee votes will not be counted; B) Notification **MUST** be given to the Department Headquarters and the Unit Charter Cancellation will then be voted on by the Department Executive Committee and then forwarded to the National Headquarters for vote by the National Executive Committee; and, C) When a Unit ceases to function or its Charter has been revoked or cancelled, **the Charter and ALL FUNDS must be forward immediately to Department Headquarters.** The Department Office does not have room for other records.

The main goal is to support Units and avoid the cancellation of Charters. However, there are times when cancellation is unavoidable or may be just the best thing for a Unit. Good judgment and common sense should prevail as to how best to proceed with the decision.

**Any questions concerning a Unit or County disbanding – please call the Iowa Department Executive Director at 515-282-7987.**

### Cancellation of County Charter

*If a County chooses to disband they must follow all of the above requirements except for notifying all members of the County. Instead all Units in the County must be notified. If a County disbands the Units in that County do not have to disband. However, if a County has active Units, disbanding is not encouraged.*



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

*Auxiliary Communique - Fall 2014 - 2015*

Page 9

## Legislation

**Jan Carlton, Chairman**  
107 Blondeau St., #1 - Keokuk, Iowa 52632  
319-524-7270 (Cell, 795-8371); [jancar17@msn.com](mailto:jancar17@msn.com)

Legislative Day has been set for January 21, 2015 in Des Moines. The deadline to submit photos of Unit members taken with the American flag is December 20, 2014. The photos will be used in a collage and displayed on Legislative Day. I can't wait to put this together and see all the faces across Iowa come together.

If you have internet access and are on Facebook, I would encourage you to not only join the Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Page, but also the ALA National Legislative Group Page. The ALA Legislative group is for anyone interested in issues affecting our veterans, our military, and their families.

In September the United States Senate adopted Resolution 506 recognizing the patriotism and contributions of auxiliaries of veterans service organizations. Now more than ever it is important to continue to build awareness of our organization and our efforts. One way to do this is to ...REPORT this coming April.

With the midterm elections behind us and some new legislators in office, let our voices be heard either through email, letters, or phone calls. Our veterans deserve our support.

Finally, I wish peace & health to each and every member across Iowa. Enjoy the upcoming holidays.

## 2014 VAMC and IVH Tours

**Cindy Meyer, VA&R Chairman**  
**Mary Sebben, VA&R Service to Veterans Chairman**  
**Mary Littrell, VA&R Coordinator**

The VA&R Team along with Commander Ron, President Diana and many others toured Des Moines, Iowa City, Omaha, and Sioux Falls VA Health Care Facilities and the Iowa Veterans Home in September and October of 2014. We saw many renovations and constructions in progress.

They are also keeping up with the latest advances in medicine. Tele-Health connects all the facilities with the CBOCs (Community Based Outpatient Clinics) and also with Minneapolis letting doctors check out patients via cameras.

Mental Health and space issues are areas of most concern for the facilities at this time. We were impressed at how well the Iowa City VAMC works together with the UIHC on areas of staffing and research.

The Des Moines VAMC is working on renovating in-patient rooms to private with bath/shower features as well as Horcher Medical Systems lifts in the rooms.

The Sioux Falls VAMC has Community Living Centers on two floors as well as a Homeless Team which assists with housing and health issues.

The Omaha VAMC has several Access specialty clinics with a very good mental health facility shared with Creighton.

At the Iowa Veterans Home (IVH), there are four medical doctors on a 24-7 care basis with two Nurse Practitioners. They also contract with five other specialty doctors.

Each facility has special needs: Iowa City needs lap robes, IVH needs monetary donations to purchase holiday gifts for residents, and they all need new winter coats and clothing. The full needs lists are on the ALA website.

Be sure to send your donations to the Department Office earmarked with the facility's name. Then send a postcard to the facility telling them the amount of your donation and what it is for. Remember that many of these veterans are alone and would simply like a card or letter from someone who cares. Or even better how about a visit. We found our VA Health Care Facilities standing ready to meet the needs of all our veterans every day.

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year . . .*

*Marlene, Jeannie & Traci*

## National Security

**PDP Ann Crawford**  
2014-2015 Chairman

National Security is broader in its scope and comprises more than the mere statement of any one single phase of military or economic preparedness. National Security encompasses all aspects of our daily lives and our Nation's future.

One way to support those who are serving our country is to contribute to various funds such as the American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors. Every dollar contributed goes to the support of our wounded. Some organizations or groups use their monies for advertising and administrative costs. Donating blood, volunteering in our schools, distributing Blue Star Banners, helping active duty military and their families with daily needs, clipping coupons and sending to military bases, sending cards to the Holiday for Heroes program, supporting the USO, encouraging involvement in community and legislative affairs - all are ways to do your part for our National Security.

Are you prepared if disaster hits? Being prepared to assist at home or far way is vital to the nation's security. With winter storms already affecting many, we must act now. Do you have supplies on hand if you lose power for several days or weeks? Recent reports of earthquakes, floods, and tornadoes may not have affected you personally, but what would happen if one of those disasters hit home? Are you prepared? Is your community prepared? Will you take the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) classes offered by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Administration)?

If your Unit or members are participating in any National Security initiatives, please report them to me so I may include in my mid-year and annual reports. You may email to me at [acrawford@longlines.com](mailto:acrawford@longlines.com).



A Quilts of Valor Quilt Retreat will be held January 9-11, 2015, at The Quilted Steeple, 2605 - 90th Ave., in Lone Rock.

The Quilted Steeple is a beautifully restored former church and parsonage. You may learn more about it at [www.quiltedsteeple.com](http://www.quiltedsteeple.com). Friday morning to Sunday noon you will be surrounded by the peace and tranquility of rural Iowa.

Join us for a weekend of fun fellowship and food, service to veterans food, and a stitchin' good

## Quilts of Valor Quilt Retreat

time. Oh, and food. Did I mention food and chocolate?

The fee for the retreat is \$125 which includes your spacious sewing area, lodging with five meals (Friday evening to Sunday morning) and beverages. There is an extra refrigerator in the retreat center for guests who want to bring other beverages, snacks or other food. Day retreats for those living close by would be \$50 for the weekend and will include your spacious sewing area the Friday night meal, lunch and dinner on

Saturday. If you can only come for the day, the cost is \$25.

You will need to bring your sewing machine and personal tools. Cutting tables, pressing tables, irons, and individual lighting at the tables is provided. Fabric and patterns will be available due to the generosity of our members or you can bring your own.

Not a quilter? No problem. If you can stitch a straight line, we will get you started quilting! Send in your reservation today - spots will fill up quickly.

### Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: (Diet restrictions, mobility issues) \_\_\_\_\_

Send Registration form and fee to: QOV Retreat, American Legion Auxiliary, 720 Lyon St., Des Moines, IA 50309

Questions? Contact Ann Rehbein - [amrehbein@msn.com](mailto:amrehbein@msn.com) or 515-232-9299.





# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## DEPARTMENT OF IOWA

SERVING VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES

*Auxiliary Communique - Fall 2014 - 2015*

Page 10

## Staying the Course in Membership

Doris Jackson, Lu Rolfes, Susan Selk  
Membership Committee

American Legion Auxiliary members have been extremely busy this autumn working on Membership for their individual Districts. Due to each District's determination in RENEW – RECRUIT – REJOIN they have placed Iowa in the #1 position in RENEW – REJOIN and NUMERIC GOAL in the Nation. Iowa is also #1 in RENEW – REJOIN and NUMERIC GOAL in Central Division as of the November 12th report. We had 169 Units make the 75% Membership Milestone by November 11th. Great job! Our next Membership Milestone is 100% on December 31st with March 3rd being the 105% Membership Goal.

These goals can only be achieved by determined and motivated Auxiliary individuals. I have watched Districts hold steady in our race and other Districts have had

their ups and downs but as a whole Iowa is fighting to maintain its lead in membership in the Nation. Each District has achieved these goals by making phone calls, sending letters and personally visiting Units to stress how important turning membership in is to the Unit, District and Department. Please continue to run your race as hard as you can, keep your chin up and don't forget the veterans you are running this race for.

I am so proud to announce that 6th District has chartered a new Unit, Van Meter. Department President Diana Shadduck, Membership Chairman Doris Jackson and Dallas County President Mary Sebben assisted this Unit in its formation. The new Van Meter Unit has 53 members whose names will appear on the Charter. They have done a great job of recruiting members for their Unit. Congratulations, Van Meter!

All Units achieving the 100% Membership Goal by December 31st are eligible for the \$100.00 drawing at Mid-Winter Conference. All 100% Units will be put in the drawing with only 1 Unit name drawn out. I wonder which Unit it will be? Also don't forget the "ONE IN A MILLION" and "SILVER BRIGADE" recruiting forms. Anyone turning in a "ONE IN A MILLION" form will receive a \$10.00 gift card and anyone turning in "SILVER BRIGADE" form will receive \$100.00 at Mid-Winter Conference. Please have a copy of these forms to me by January 31st. So I can have your gift ready for you.

Remember you can keep up on all Auxiliary news by going to the Department website at [www.ialegion.org/ala](http://www.ialegion.org/ala) click on the Membership tab and you will find all the information you need regarding membership.

## Chaplain Erlene's Jottings

### *THE OLD; THE NEW*

We are near the turning point of the year. Before long we will be turning in the "old" for the "new", but first we need to get busy and leave the old year in a grand sort of fashion. We have shopping to do, decorating to do, cards to send, meals and gatherings to plan and along with all that we will try to maintain our usual routine. Christmas time or Holiday time can be stressful for us as we pile on all the extra stuff. What can we eliminate in our schedule for the next few weeks to help lighten the load? What can we just sort of forget about?

The goal of the American Legion Auxiliary is to work for and help our Veterans. As we plan and plan for this time of year, as we shop and decorate, I encourage you to keep our Veterans off the list of things we can forget about until after the New Year begins. We all know too well, that many of our Veterans are homeless or in need of assistance in their homes and with their families. Their need is always greater this time of year. Shopping and decorating is not a priority for them. They have no big plans for this time of year, because of their need. If you attended the "Stand Down" in Des Moines in September, you saw the need first hand. Those needs weren't just there in September; they are still there and are there all year round. Don't put our Veterans on the list of things to put off until after the New Year begins.

The old concerns we have never really leave us. They will still be here when we begin again on January 1st. So, during this time of year lend an extra hand to our Veterans, either individually or through our Unit or District, to ease the concerns they have. Let's help them put their old concerns and worries aside for a while as we share with them some of the abundance God has given us. Help them turn in the "old" for the "new" in a way that is pleasing to God.

I will leave you with this thought: It is not about me, it is not about you – it's about them; the Veterans, their families, the troops. We are always happier when we are giving and may that giving make your Christmas and Holiday season more meaningful. For God and Country. Blessings to all. Department Chaplain Earlene Lekwa

## American Legion Auxiliary Girls State

Mary Andersen, Director  
Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls State

The dates for the 2015 session of Iowa American Legion Auxiliary Girls State are June 14 through 19, again at the ISU campus in Ames. Girls are expected to arrive for registration, unpacking, AND lunch between 10:AM and Noon, because we begin promptly at 1:PM with our first session. In order to begin on time, many of the cities begin walking over to the meeting from the dorms before 12:45, and some girls need to change into picture clothing after they arrive, so they should plan for plenty of extra time in their arrival schedule.

Reservation deadline is December 1st to have your money at the Department Office. You may reserve space for more than one citizen, but spaces after the first citizen are filled on a first come, first serve (first paid!) basis. The fee is \$400 for the combined t-shirt, registration fees (which include all take-home items such as photos, name badge, manual, pin, etc.), and Girls State fee is payable to the Department Office.

Shortly after the first of the new year, your Unit will receive a postcard or e-mail with the website and code for your Girls State citizen to register online. Please be sure that the GIRLS STATE CITIZEN is the one doing this registration! Last year, we had many incomplete registrations because someone other than the actual citizen was completing this information (guidance counselor, Unit officers, etc.). There is health information, permissions, and other personal information that should be entered by the citizens themselves (or their parent or guardian), which is required by our facility and our nurse. This process needs to be completed by February 28, 2015.

Continue to stay in contact with your Girls State citizen throughout the spring. Touch base with her to make sure she is completing this online "paperwork." and see if she has questions for you. If you can't answer them, you know at least two people who might be able to help you. (Mary & Michele!) Try to help her connect with previous years' Girls state citizens, especially if those girls were excited about their experience.

The website will be updated on or around the first of the year as well. Look for an updated packing list, as requested by last year's Girls State citizens.

This year's wish list includes the usual Wal-Mart and Hy-gee gift cards to help defray expenses when we arrive in Ames for supplies. We also need campaign paper this year – a few years ago, we asked for that, and have finally depleted that supply. We would like mostly lighter colors and letter, legal, or 11x17 size paper.

We are also asking for monetary assistance for specific aspects of the program. Costs are rising (at least 1% per year for facility costs), and the fees we charge are not always meeting the rate of increase. Consider a sponsoring a donation of some sort, if you or your Unit is able – such as "today's city meeting is sponsored by Unit 47 of Fairfield." Here are some of the individual costs for Girls State: one manual = \$7; one night's stay in the dorm (per person) = \$28; Governor's Gavel = \$23; Breakfast (per person, per day) = \$7.50; Lunch/Dinner (per person, per day) = \$10; City Hall room rent, per day = \$250; Large Room Rental, per day = \$650. Donations may be sent to the Department Office with "Girls State Donation" in the memo line. Gift cards are to be sent to the Department Office where they will be recorded and given to Mary Andersen for needed purchases.

Girls State will again be holding a silent auction on Saturday evening at Mid-Winter Conference, so be sure to bring items for that event, and your pocketbook, so you can bid, bid, bid!

Thank you for your support of the Girls State program, for this appointment, and for the opportunity to continue to serve the American Legion Auxiliary in this capacity.

### **DEADLINES**

*Please meet or beat the 2014-2015 deadlines. The Calendar is included in this newspaper, on our website and in the Unit packet you received at your District and/or County Workshops in August 2014. Thank you.*